



(U) Plenty of Action on the Action Team

FROM: [REDACTED]
SID Action Team
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(U//FOUO) As a member of the SID Action team you have been asked to do which of the following:

1. Analyze MG Quirk's engagement strategy for stakeholders and partners - and, if appropriate, tell him what you think won't work.
2. Assist SID senior leadership in institutionalizing SIGINT business processes
3. Prepare a speech for the SID Deputy Director to present to a U.S. Ambassadors' Seminar.
4. Take notes at an offsite.
5. Transport MG Quirk's white board in your truck to the offsite.
6. Represent SID at a prep session with General Hayden.
7. All of the above

(U//FOUO) Obviously the answer is 7 - all of the above - plus a whole lot more. The depth and breadth of activities for members of the SIGINT Action Team are as varied as the backgrounds and skill levels of the members of the team.

(U//FOUO) The perception of most outsiders, upon finding out that you work on the Action Team, is one of "oh wow you must be really busy", or "ugh," or more often than not, "what's that?" However, those who have been on the team know that the experience can be invigorating and the environment one of the best for learning. It's not all rosy - there are periods where it is thankless, tiring, late days, frustrating - but it's never boring.

(U//FOUO) On a daily basis, the members of the team (generally consisting of 6-7 people) provide a variety of services to MG Quirk, Charlie Meals, the Chief of Staff, and the SID Deputy Directors (i.e., bubbles). Members of the team are intimately involved with SID leadership activities that lead the way for change for SID - applying strategic thinking, vision, creativity and innovation to a multitude of tasks. The lower end of the experience is the mundane - such as running to the repro machine to make copies of a briefing at 6:00 PM on a Friday night before a long holiday weekend. The higher end is having the respect and gratitude of SID senior leadership - not just for the tasks completed, but also for the experience and analytic value we bring to the table.

(U//FOUO) Although the team often operates in a QRC mode, there is a semblance of order. Each day brings change, but it's generally manageable. The key to survival is real teamwork, flexibility, and the ability to handle the mundane to the intricate all at the same time. (Having a truck could also prove useful. Having a sense of humor is absolutely essential.)

(U//FOUO) The Team is housed in a nondescript little room at the foot of the escalators in OPS1 - save for the little sign on the door,



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most people don't even know there is a room there. But behind that door, is a team of driven individuals - who sometimes drive each other nuts - but who all share a goal of making life better for SID management and SID as a whole.

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